



Public Information Officers

Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

Background

Within the State EMD, there are two public information officers (PIOs) with different program assignments. One oversees the division's role as coordinator and disseminator of public information for all types of hazards involving state coordination and response. The second primarily supports the public information and outreach programs of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP).

Role and Purpose

One Public Information Officer oversees the operation of the division's multi-faceted public information functions. These include the production of periodic newsletters, press releases, website information and annual Activity Report; and the supervision of the Emergency Operations Center's public information section whose role is to provide the media, the public and responder agencies with timely and accurate information during emergencies. The position conducts regularly scheduled public information classes and workshops for agency and government public information officers and emergency managers. It is also an information coordination point between local, state and federal agencies and helps prepare public information response plans for hazards involving multiple jurisdictions. Reporting to EMD's chief of staff, the public information officer works with individual division programs concerning public education outreach campaigns and events such as the designation of Tsunami Ready communities or mitigation program grants.

The second Public Information Officer primarily supports the CSEPP public information and outreach for the Umatilla Chemical Depot where long-planned efforts are about to begin to destroy the depot's chemical weapons. As part of the preparations for this program, Washington works with the state of Oregon, Benton County, and Morrow and Umatilla counties in Oregon to educate the public through media and outreach events about the depot's emergency response plan. This second PIO also provides backup support for EMD's all hazard program and reports to EMD's chief of staff.

Contact

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